

10/650,201

REMARKS

In the outstanding action, the Examiner required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following alleged patentably distinct species of the invention:

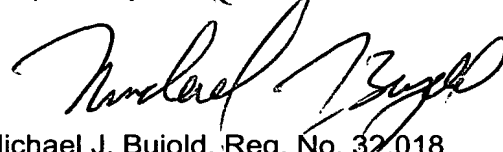
- I. Fig. 1;
- II. Fig. 2 with positive locking element 9;
- III. Fig. 2 with positive locking element 9A or
- IV. Fig. 6.

In order to fulfill the Examiner's request, the Applicant elects to prosecute the species of the claimed invention shown in Group II of the drawings, namely, Fig. 2 with a positive locking element 9. The Applicant also elects claims 21-40 which are all believed readable on the elected species to be prosecuted on the merits.

The Applicant does not waive any rights with respect to the non-elected species and does not intend to abandon that subject matter. If the Examiner makes the election requirement final, the Applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected species be withdrawn from further consideration but remain in this application subject to reinstatement, in the event that a generic claim is allowed, or for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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